

# MINUTES

BUDGET & FINANCE COMMITTEE

CITY OF BRANSON, MISSOURI

April 25, 2011

## 1) Call to Order

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Budget & Finance Committee met in the Fish Bowl of City Hall, Monday, April 25, 2011 at 9:00 a.m. The meeting was called to order by Mayor Raeanne Presley.

## 2) Roll Call

Committee Members present were City Administrator Dean Kruithof, Alderman Bob Simmons, Alderman Mike Booth, and Sandy Bruns.

Also present: Lori Helle, Jamie Rouch, Carl Garrett, Bill Derbins, Bill Tirone, Jeff Scott, and Shawna Lacy from Branson Airport.

Absent were: Brian Blankenship and Nancy Haskin.

City Administrator Dean Kruithof gave the committee an update on the flood status before proceeding with the scheduled agenda. He reported everyone in the City Campground was safely evacuated. The Emergency Management Team will stay in touch twice a day via conference calls, and will hold press conferences as needed.

## 3) Discussion of Convention Center March 2011 financials.

Bill Derbins updated the committee on the number of events held at the Convention Center; they ended 2010 with 167, and have already reached 200 for 2011. As discussed previously, Bill priced signage for the meeting rooms, if entering from the south doors. The quotation including installation is \$2,554.50 from Sharp Signs. The committee recommended this purchase. Holding volleyball tournaments as a source of revenue during January and February had been discussed at an earlier meeting. Bill checked on pricing for equipment to be able to hold these events, and reported a rough estimate would be \$42,000 - \$45,000 to purchase it. The main problem is there is nowhere to store the equipment when it is not in use. He is going to check to see if there is a possibility of renting the equipment. The purchase figures and layouts were courtesy of the Chamber.

Bill reported that March revenue was up, and was the best revenue so far. Expenses are down and the first quarter numbers are good. High gas prices are their main concern.

Mayor Presley asked Bill to provide the committee with an estimate of the revenue loss for the parking garage. Jeff Scott recommended the possibility of a traffic counter at the entrances of the south lot to track the amount of traffic in that free lot.

A recommendation to the City by the environmental consultants, HDR Engineering, is the use of new ozone equipment, which will enable the laundry to use cold water, less detergent, and less electricity due to faster drying time. Bill Derbins reported that it is much better for the environment and will be a cost savings in the long run.

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## 4) Regular Reports:

### A. Minutes

Sandy Bruns moved to accept the minutes of the 3-28-11 meeting as presented. This was seconded by Bob Simmons. Motion carried.

### B. Monthly Sales & Tourism Tax Reports

Carl Garrett gave a short overview of the monthly sales and tourism tax reports. Sales tax for April, representing February sales, was down 0.7% for the month and down 2.1% year to date.

Tourism tax was down 38.6% for the month of March, and down 7.6% year to date. March tourism tax represents February sales. Carl reported he is expecting April to be flat, and the high gas prices will continue to slow tourism. He stated Branson is basically down across the board, not just in any one particular area.

### C. Presentation & Discussion of Monthly Financial Reports – March 2011

Lori Helle presented the March 2011 financials.

## 5) Review of Disbursements & Approval of Disbursements \$50,000 and over. (March 25, 2011; March 31, 2011; April 1, 2011 (2); April 8, 2011; and April 15, 2011)

Disbursements were acknowledged as presented. Mike Booth moved to accept the disbursements, seconded by Bob Simmons. Motion passed.

Bob Simmons asked that the Finance Committee be furnished with a monthly listing of all Engineering/Professional Services/Consulting firms that are being used by the City. The committee agreed this would be helpful, and Mayor Presley asked that the list also be furnished to the Capital Improvements Committee. This will be done beginning with the May meeting.

## 6) Discussion of CDF (Community Development Fund/Fee).

A discussion was held regarding the CDF fee that is added to the charges at some lodging establishments, some restaurants, and other businesses. This fee is not regulated by anyone, and is used at the discretion of the business, as they see fit. Mayor Presley feels this is problematic for our visitors, as most of them do not know it is voluntary, and they may ask to have it removed from their bill.

## 7) Finance Director's Report

It was announced that this was the final meeting of a two-year term for Alderman Bob Simmons, Sandy Bruns, and Brian Blankenship to serve on the Finance Committee. Alderman Simmons will move to the Capital Improvement Committee. Alderman Rick Davis will join the Finance Committee in May along with David Strong from Skaggs Regional Medical Center. Mayor Presley will appoint a member-at-large to replace Brian Blankenship, who has taken a job in Raytown, Missouri.

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Lori informed the committee the Finance Department will stay open until 6:00 p.m. on Friday, April 29<sup>th</sup>, and will be open from 8:00 a.m. until noon on Saturday, April 30<sup>th</sup>, to facilitate customers needing to renew their business or contractors' licenses by the expiration deadline.

## **8) Adjourn**

Mike Booth moved the meeting adjourn, seconded by Sandy Bruns. Motion passed. The next regular meeting will be held in May, date to be announced.